

## **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium**

- 1. Will content and skills assessed on the ISAT, for the school years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, be covered through the implementation of the CCSS?**

With implementation of the more focused and cohesive Common Core State Standards, students will be given an education that will prepare them for college or a career. The higher order skills students will be learning through the CCSS will more than prepare them for the current ISAT, which focuses on skills in isolation. Not only do the CCSSs cover the skills assessed on the ISAT, the standards provided a more in-depth contextual application of these skills.

- 2. How can districts be pilot districts for the Smarter Balanced assessment testing system before the test is given to all districts?**

Currently, ISAT Coordinator, Dr. Angie Rishell, is collecting names for those districts interested in being pilot school districts for the Smarter Balanced assessment. If the number of interested districts outnumbers the available slots, the Idaho State Department of Education will develop a fair selection process for interested districts. Districts can reach Dr. Angie Rishell at [arishell@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:arishell@sde.idaho.gov).

- 3. Will districts who participate in the pilot for the Smarter Balanced assessment be required to give students the ISAT, as well?**

Yes; the pilot is part of test development therefore it will not provide student level scores. Therefore, any district participating in the pilot will have to give the students the ISAT, as well.

- 4. Which students will be held accountable to graduate under CCSS assessments? Will the juniors of Spring 2015 be required to take the Smarter Balanced assessment and the ISAT as sophomores?**

Current eighth graders of the 2011-2012 school year, will be the first students to take the Smarter Balanced assessment given in the eleventh grade. These same students will be required to take the ISAT as sophomores. As to which assessment score will be required for graduation is still to be determined.

- 5. How will remedial students be successful on the Smarter Balanced assessment? Will the State of Idaho graduation requirement for math credits change accordingly?**

With the adoption of the CCSS, states are choosing to change instructional strategies in order to prepare students for college or careers. With this change, a change in the assessment to determine student content proficiency must occur. The Smarter Balanced assessment taken in the eleventh grade will be through all conceptual category standards, less the plus (+) standards designated for fourth year math courses. Students will be given at least one retest opportunity in their senior year of high school.

## ***Frequently Asked Questions – Idaho Specific***

The State of Idaho will be looking into any necessary graduation requirement changes due to the new assessment and standards.

- 6. Since the Smarter Balanced assessment as part of the graduation requirement is given in the junior year of high school, will students now be required to take math as a junior?**

While there will be one cut score for all states for the Smarter Balanced assessment, graduation cut scores are an individual state decision. The graduation cut scores may be much lower than the consortium cut score for proficiency. The proficiency cut score is still being determined at the consortium level. This transition will take time; there will most likely be a graduated cut score as time goes on and while the No Child Left Behind Waiver is still being developed as well as graduation requirements to go along with the new assessment.

- 7. Will there be an alternate plan for graduation available for students who cannot pass the high school Smarter Balanced assessment?**

The alternate route to graduation is currently in Board Rule; it is not anticipated that it will change.

- 8. How will growth be measured as we transition from ISAT to the new Smarter Balanced assessment?**

This is a question that is being addressed; an answer has yet to be determined.